

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 DLOS-04 SAL-01 OES-06 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-06 /106 W

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R 271743Z APR 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJ: MAUDLING TELLS CROSLAND HOW TO SUCK EGGS

1. SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGINALD MAUDLING PUBLISHED OPEN LETTER TO NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY ANTHONY CROSLAND IN TIMES OF APRIL 26 IN WHICH IN EFFECT HE INSTRUCTED CROSLAND ON HIS NEW PORTFOLIO. LETTER, COUCHED IN TUTORIAL AND SOMEWHAT PATRONIZING LANGUAGE, IS AN ENTERTAINING MIXTURE OF WIT, IRONY AND WARNING. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, GET FAR IN DEFINING PARTY DIFFERENCES IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR SUGGESTING ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN OPEN LETTER TO NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND, CONSERVATIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN REGINALD MAUDLING WELCOMED CROSLAND'S ASCENSION TO NEW PORTFOLIO AND PROVIDED HIM WITH BOTH SERIOUS WARNING ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF THE POSITION, AS WELL AS JOSHING INSTRUCTIONS IN CARRY-
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ING OUT HIS NEW DUTIES.

3. MAUDLING ALSO POKES FUN AT FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, NOTING THAT "PRIME MINISTERS THESE DAYS SO ENJOY FOREIGN TRAVEL THEMSELVES". HE CRITICIZED CALLAGHAN "HAM FISTED" DEALINGS WITH THE EUROPEANS AND RAISED HIS EYEBROWS AT "JIM'S INTENTIONS" WITH REGARD TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

4. MAUDLING ASKS CROSLAND TO SCOTCH RUMOR THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS FOR HIM MERELY A STAGING POST IN ROUTE TO THE TREASURY. "BRITAIN'S FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS ENOUGH DIFFICULTY IN ESTABLISHING HIS AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD THESE DAYS WITHOUT BEING TREATED AS A MERE CARETAKER". HE ENCOURAGES CROSLAND TO UTILIZE BRITAIN'S CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF BRITAIN.

5. PROBLEM AREAS WHICH MAUDLING CITES AS REPRESENTING A MAJOR CONCERN ARE: INCREASE OF COMMUNIST PRESSURE ON THE WEST (INCLUDING ITALY) AND GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF SOVIET NAVY; ECONOMIC STRAINS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE EEC WITH THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO; THE "PARALYSIS" IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AS A RESULT OF ELECTIONS; AND AFRICA, ESPECIALLY RHODESIA. HE ASKS CROSLAND TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO AVOID IMPENDING CATASTROPHE IN RHODESIA.

6. OTHER ISSUES HE CITES INCLUDE THE COD WAR IN WHICH BRITAIN DOES NOT ENJOY THE SYMPATHY OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD. HE ASKS CROSLAND TO UNDERTAKE A NEW INITIATIVE PERHAPS THROUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WITH REGARD TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, MAUDLING SAYS THE CONSERVATIVES ARE SOMEWHAT WARY AND SUSPICIOUS, AND WILL WATCH CROSLAND'S PERFORMANCE CLOSELY. MAUDLING EXCLUDES THE MIDDLE EAST FROM HIS LETTER, BUT LEAVES THE WAY OPEN FOR A SECOND TUTORIAL LETTER ON THAT SUBJECT ALONE.

7. MAUDLING'S LETTER CONCLUDES WITH THE TRADITIONAL CON-

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GRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR CROSLAND'S SUCCESS AS FOREIGN SECRETARY. HE NOTES EARLIER THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WOULD OFFER HIM A CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION, CRITICIZING WHEN THEY FELT HE WAS WRONG, MAKING SUGGESTIONS TO BE HELPFUL, AND SUPPORTING CROSLAND WHEN HE IS PERCEIVED TO BE ACTING IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. AT THE SAME TIME MAUDLING POINTS OUT CROSLAND'S MAIN OPPOSITION WILL COME FROM HIS OWN LEFT-WING RATHER THAN THE CONSERVATIVES, AND HE HINTS THAT CROSLAND'S TENURE IS LIMITED BY THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT.

8. COMMENT: MAUDLING'S LETTER IS ADROIT AND SKILLFUL, TOUCHED WITH ELEMENTS OF WIT AND IRONY FOR WHICH HE HAS A REPUTATION IN CONVERSATION BUT NOT IN HIS PARLIAMENTARY PERFORMANCE OR IN HIS WRITINGS. THE JIBING TONE, PARTICULARLY IN AN AREA WHERE CONSERVATIVE POSITIONS ARE OFTEN NOT FAR REMOVED FROM THOSE OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT,
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SUGGESTS THE TORYS MAY BE READY TO PROVOKE INCREASED

ITSELF DOESN'T GO VERY FAR IN DELINEATING PARTY DIFFERENCES OR SUGGESTING ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICIES.
ARMSTRONG

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